

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
9 June 2005 (09.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/051907 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C07D 207/26

(74) Agent: SMAGGASGALE, Gillian, Helen; W.P. Thompson & Co, 55 Drury Lane, London WC2B 5SQ (GB).

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/GB2004/004388

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 15 October 2004 (15.10.2004)

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0325384.6 30 October 2003 (30.10.2003) GB

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): DAVY PROCESS TECHNOLOGY LIMITED [GB/GB]; 20 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LE (GB).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(72) Inventors; and  
(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): CRABTREE, Simon, Peter [GB/GB]; 4 Durham Road, Durham City, Durham DH1 5AL (GB). TYERS, Derek, Vincent [GB/GB]; The Barn, Cowesby, Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO7 2JL (GB). SHARIF, Mohammed [GB/GB]; 19 Maidstone Drive, Marton, Middlesborough TS7 9QW (GB).

WO 2005/051907 A1

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF LACTAMS

(57) Abstract: A homogeneous process for the hydrogenation of dicarboxylic acid and/or derivative thereof with an amine in the presence of a catalyst comprising: (a) ruthenium or osmium; and (b) an organic phosphine; and wherein the hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of water.